

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 12-19 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

A dye-based polarizing film is manufactured in such a manner that a base material for polarizing film, such as a oriented polyvinyl alcohol-based film or polyene-based film which is obtained by orienting polyene produced through dehydrochlorination of polyvinyl chloride film or dehydration of polyvinyl alcohol-based film, ~~is added by dye~~ which to which is added a dye that covers a desirable wavelength as a polarizing element. For example, a compound having the following structure is described in WO 00/37973 as dye, which covers a wavelength with a range of 520 to 580 nm in the case of being used as a polarizing element.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In the case that the polymer film contains the above-mentioned dye, a method of dyeing the polymer film is typically employed. The dyeing can be performed, for example, in the following manner. First, the above-mentioned dye is dissolved in water to prepare a dyebath. Though it is not particularly limited, the concentration of the dye in the dyebath is typically selected from a range of 0.0001 to 10% by weight. Also, as required, a dyeing assistant may be used; for example, sodium sulfate decahydrate (Glauber's salt) is suitably used by 0.1 to 10% by weight in the dyebath. The polymer film is immersed in the dyebath thus prepared to be dyed. The temperature for the dyeing is preferably 40 to 80°C. The orientation of the dye is performed

by stretching the polymer film. ~~Either method of a~~ A wet method, a dry method ~~and or~~ the like may be employed as a method of stretching. The stretching of the polymer film may be performed either before or after dyeing.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 10-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Post treatment such as boric acid treatment is performed, as required, for the oriented polymer film containing the dye by a conventional method. Such post treatment is performed for the purpose of improving ray transmittance, polarization degree and durability of the polarizing film. The boric acid treatment varies with ~~kinds~~ the kind of the polymer film and the dye employed, and is usually performed in a temperature range of from 30 to 80°C, preferably from 50 to 80°C by using an aqueous solution of boric acid having a concentration with a range of generally from 1 to 15% by weight, preferably from 5 to 10% by weight. In addition, as required, a fixing treatment may be performed together by an aqueous solution containing a cationic polymer.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

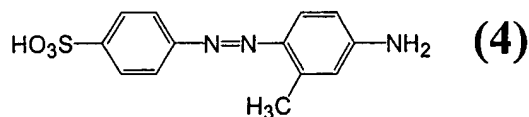
The dye-based polarizing film thus obtained can be made into a polarizing plate by laminating protective film, which is superior in optical transparency and mechanical strength, on one side or both sides thereof. A material to be used for forming the protective film may be conventionally used materials, for example, a cellulose acetate-based film, an acrylic-based film,

a fluoride resin-based film such as tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer, a polyester-based film, a polyolefin-based film, a polyamide-based film, and the like.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 7-13 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 1

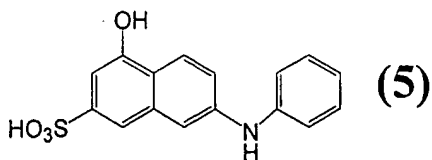
110 parts of the monoazo compound of the formula (4)



and 30 parts of sodium nitrite were added to 1500 parts of water, and thereafter 120 parts of 35% of hydrochloric acid was added thereto, and the mixture was stirred at a temperature of 0 to 10°C for 2 hours to obtain a solution of diazo compound.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 14 to page 9, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Meanwhile, 157 parts of the naphthol compound of the formula (5)



was added to 700 parts of water and the mixture was stirred at a temperature of 0 to 10°C. The solution of the diazo compound obtained above was added to this mixture over a period of 1 hour while maintaining pH of 7 in the reaction solution by adding an aqueous solution of sodium

carbonate. After the addition of the diazo compound solution, a coupling reaction was performed by stirring for another 1 hour to obtain the disazo compound of the formula (1). The value of λ_{max} of this disazo compound was denoted at 539 nm in aqueous solvent.

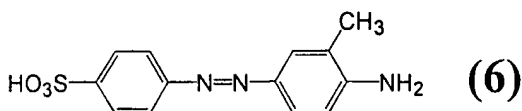
Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 2-19 with the following amended paragraph:

A polyvinyl alcohol film having a thickness of 75 μm (the trade name "~~Kuraray Vinylon~~ KURARAY VINYLON #7500" manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was stretched longitudinally uniaxially by five times to be made into a base material for a polarizing film. This polyvinyl alcohol film was immersed in aqueous solution at a temperature of 70°C, which ~~is~~ was adjusted to pH of 9 in concentrations of 0.025% for the salt of the disazo compound (1) and 0.2% for sodium sulfate decahydrate (a dyeing assistant), while being maintained in a condition ~~of its~~ tension. Next, after being immersed in a 7.5% ~~of~~ aqueous solution of boric acid at a temperature of 78°C for 5 minutes, the polyvinyl alcohol film was taken out and washed with water at a temperature of 20°C for 20 seconds and dried at a temperature of 50°C so as to obtain a polarizing film. The value of λ_{max} (a wavelength for minimizing the transmittance of the film in a stretching direction, hereinafter the same) of the polarizing film obtained was denoted at 550 nm, and this polarizing film exhibited a high polarization degree. The polarizing film also exhibited a long-time durability in a condition of high temperature and high humidity. When the polarizing film here obtained was irradiated by a high-pressure mercury lamp for 48 hours so as to observe absorbance change (ΔA) thereof, the value was 0.3, leading to a superior light resistance.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 2

~~Salt~~ The salt of the disazo compound of ~~the~~ formula (2) was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1 except for using the azo compound of the formula (6)



instead of the azo compound (4). The value of λ_{max} of this salt was denoted at 532 nm in an aqueous solvent.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 4-20 with the following amended paragraph:

The polyvinyl alcohol film having a thickness of 75 μm (the trade name "~~Kuraray~~
~~Vynlon~~ KURARAY VINYLON #7500" manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was stretched longitudinally uniaxially by five times to be made into a base material for a polarizing film. This polyvinyl alcohol film was immersed in aqueous solution at a temperature of 70°C, which ~~is~~ was adjusted to pH of 9 in concentrations of 0.025% for the salt of the disazo compound (2) and 0.2% for sodium sulfate decahydrate (a dyeing assistant), while being maintained in a condition ~~of its~~ tension. Next, after being immersed in a 7.5% ~~of~~ aqueous solution of boric acid at a temperature of 78°C for 5 minutes, the polyvinyl alcohol film was taken out and washed with water at a temperature of 20°C for 20 seconds and dried at a temperature of 50°C so as to obtain a

polarizing film. The value of λ_{max} of the polarizing film obtained denoted at 550 nm, and this polarizing film exhibited a high polarization degree. The polarizing film also exhibited a long-time durability in a condition of high temperature and high humidity. When the polarizing film here obtained was irradiated by a high-pressure mercury lamp for 48 hours so as to observe absorbance change (ΔA) thereof, the value was 0.5, leading to a superior light resistance.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

A polyvinyl alcohol film having a thickness of 75 μm (the trade name "~~Kuraray Vinylon~~ KURARAY VINYLON #7500" manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was stretched longitudinally uniaxially by five times to be made into a base material for a polarizing film. This polyvinyl alcohol film was immersed in an aqueous solution at a temperature of 70°C, which is was adjusted to a pH of 9 in concentrations of 0.025% for the salt of the following disazo compound (7) and 0.2% for sodium sulfate decahydrates (a dyeing assistant), while being maintained in a condition of tension. Next, after being immersed in a 7.5% ~~of an~~ aqueous solution of boric acid at a temperature of 78°C for 5 minutes, the polyvinyl alcohol film was taken out and washed with water at a temperature of 20°C for 20 seconds and dried at a temperature of 50°C so as to obtain a polarizing film. The value of λ_{max} of the polarizing film obtained was denoted at 550 nm.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 5-10 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Disazo~~ The disazo compound or salt thereof of the present invention is particularly superior in light resistance against a long-time exposure when used as a polarizing element. Also, a dye-based polarizing film of the present invention is superior in light resistance against a long-time exposure and initial polarizing performance, thereby it can be used for a liquid crystal projector and an in-car display device (a car navigation system).